

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 719

By Norris

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Jerry Reese as an outstanding Tennessean.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens, who through their extraordinary efforts have distinguished themselves as community leaders and consummate professionals; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is Jerry Reese, who has represented his home state of Tennessee well, rising from humble beginnings to the heights of the National Football League as General Manager of the New York Giants, victors of Super Bowl XLII; and

WHEREAS, relying upon the time-honored qualities of perseverance, common sense, hard work, and an unswerving commitment to excellence, Mr. Reese's life and accomplishments epitomize the American Dream and should serve as an inspiration to us all; and

WHEREAS, a native of Tiptonville, Jerry Reese was born to a mother who worked on a clothing factory assembly line; the family, mother and seven children, lived in a five room house in which Mr. Reese slept on a collapsible cot; and

WHEREAS, Jerry Reese learned early in life the value of a solid work ethic, as he spent summers working with his great-grandfather on a farm and in a slaughterhouse; he also performed the strenuous work of chopping cotton as a hired hand in local cotton fields; and

WHEREAS, applying these principles of industry and dedication to his football pursuits, Mr. Reese became a success at Tiptonville High School as its quarterback, leading the team to a state title in 1981; and

WHEREAS, Jerry Reese's stellar high school gridiron performance earned him a spot on the University of Tennessee-Martin's football team, where he was recognized as a two-time All-Gulf South Conference team member, Most Valuable Player for his senior season, and three-

time Gulf South Conference Defensive Player of the Week; he still places among the school's all-time career leaders in interceptions; and

WHEREAS, after earning a bachelor's degree in health and physical education, Mr. Reese went on to earn his master's degree in education administration and supervision from the University of Tennessee-Martin while serving as a student assistant and graduate assistant for the football team; skilled as a football coach, Jerry Reese worked his way up to the team's assistant head coach position by 1993; and

WHEREAS, in 1994, Mr. Reese brought his tireless work ethic and notable football talents to the New York Giants, serving first as a scout and later as the Director of Player Personnel before becoming the team's General Manager in January of 2007; and

WHEREAS, relying on his leadership skills, intelligence, and superior work ethic, Jerry Reese, in just his first season as General Manager, conquered football's greatest challenge when the Giants won the Super bowl on February 3, 2008, improbably upsetting the Patriots' almost historic drive to complete an entire season undefeated; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Reese embodies the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean, and he has represented the State well as one of its greatest ambassadors; and

WHEREAS, Jerry Reese, his professional accomplishments aside, is perhaps most grateful for the love and companionship he shares with his wife, Gwen Moore, and his children, Jasmyne Danielle and Jerry II; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Mr. Reese for his outstanding achievements and his dedication to the State of Tennessee and its citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Jerry Reese as an outstanding Tennessean, applaud him for his many admirable accomplishments, and extend to him our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.